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H. L. GREEN,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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"The hour is coming when men's holy Church
Shall melt away in ever-widening walls,
And be for all mankind ; and in its place
A mightier Church shall come, whose covenant word
Shall be the deeds of love. Not *Credo* then ;
Amo shall be the password through its gates ;
Man shall not ask his brother any more,
'Believest thou ?' but 'Lovest thou ?'"

CHICAGO, ILL.
1896.



Charles H. Kerr

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

CHARLES H. KERR.

CHARLES H. KERR, whose portrait appears in this number, was born at La Grange, Georgia, April 23, 1860. His father, Alexander Kerr, now professor of the Greek language and literature in the University of Wisconsin, was then a "Yankee Schoolmaster" in Georgia, and escaped to the north with his family after the battle of Bull Run. They made their home in Wisconsin, and the subject of this sketch received his education at the Madison high school and the University of Wisconsin, taking the degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1881.

After serving a business apprenticeship in the wholesale paper house of Hinman, Moody & Co., at Beloit, Wis., he came to Chicago with the fixed ambition to enter the publishing business, and in November, 1882, secured a position with the Colegrove Book Company, booksellers and publishers, as the business agent and office editor of *UNITY*. The next decade of his life is well summed up in the following editorial paragraph written by Jenkin Lloyd Jones and published in *Unity* of March 2, 1893:

"Over ten years ago *Unity* found a willing pair of hands, a warm heart and a clear head in Charles H. Kerr, then a young man just from the Wisconsin State University. It was an opportune find without which *Unity* then might have been compelled to sing its "Swan song" and die. Three years after *Unity's* "boy" became a "man," and he assumed entire business charge of *Unity*, carrying all risks, paying all bills and running his own chances, the *Unity* Committee agreeing to edit the paper free of charge while the arrangement lasted. Under this arrangement we have worked for the last seven years, Mr. Kerr always fulfilling his share of the contract in cheerful good faith; never making money on *Unity*, always willing to lose on it if need be (as, indeed, was often the case), but building up around *Unity* an experience, and a publishing interest that has quietly grown until now it has reached the magnitude which is the chance, perhaps, of his lifetime, and it demands his

whole interest and undivided energy. *Unity*, with its hurried editing, was demanding more time and attention than he ought to give, and needing more of that same commodity all round, if it was to justify its claim for support."

After explaining how a new company had been organized to continue the publication of *Unity*, Mr. Jones added:

"Charles H. Kerr & Co. will continue, for the present at least, to be printers. That firm, as will be seen from their advertisement, will continue in their business of book making and book publishing on an enlarged scale. They go with the blessing of *Unity* and *Unity* readers, and they will carry our continued good will."

In April, 1893, the present corporation of Charles H. Kerr & Company was organized, Mr. Kerr becoming its president and treasurer. Among the incorporators were Mr. B. F. Underwood, the well known liberal lecturer, and Mr. Anson Uriel Hancock, now deceased. The company started out with a list of nearly a hundred books which Mr. Kerr had published during his connection with *Unity*, including "The Faith that Makes Faithful," a popular book of liberal addresses by W. C. Gannett and Jenkin Lloyd Jones, "The Evolution of Immortality," by Dr. C. T. Stockwell, "Inquirendo Island" and "The Last Tenet," by Hudor Genone, and many other books of free thought. Most of the new publications of his company have been in the line of social science. Early in 1893 he published "Money Found," a popular treatise on finance and banking, by Thomas E. Hill, of which over 20,000 copies have been sold. In the summer of 1894 he published Rev. W. H. Carwardine's history of the Pullman Strike, which was an instantaneous success. Last spring, when the free coinage agitation was at its height, Charles H. Kerr & Company published "Cash vs Coin," by Edward Wisner, the first and the most successful of the many answers to "Coin's Financial School." Among the company's later publications are the authorized American edition of Del Mar's great work "A History of Monetary Systems;" "The Courage of her Convictions," a radical and thought-provoking novel, by Caroline A. Huling, and "The Story of a Dream," a subtle and charming book by Ethel Maude Colson.

Mr. Kerr's place of business from 1886 to 1893 was in the Commercial Bank building at 175 Dearborn street. In 1893 the new company acquired the typesetting machinery formerly operated by

the Western Thorne Type-Setting Company at 175 Monroe street, and occupied the front half of the sixth floor of this building. The typesetting branch of the business was for the first year under the charge of Mr. Hancock, but his failing health obliged him to retire from the company, and Mr. Kerr was for many months obliged to carry the double responsibility. A few weeks ago he succeeded in making an advantageous sale of the typesetting machinery, and with the new year the company removes its book publishing business to the modern office building at 56 Fifth avenue.

The company is organized on a coöperative basis, the stock being divided into 1000 shares at \$10 each, many of which are held by employees or by those interested in the cause of free thought. Mr. Kerr retains the position of president of the company and it is his intention to issue during the coming year a monthly series of free thought pamphlets at prices that will admit of their widest popular distribution.

Through all the perplexities and anxieties of business, Mr. Kerr has been supremely fortunate in his home ties. His wife is in perfect sympathy with his religious and social ideas and their modest home in the suburbs is the scene of much delightful intellectual companionship, enlivened by romplings with the two baby girls.

By birth and home training Mr. Kerr was a Congregationalist of the liberal school. He was never taught to hold authority above truth in religion, and while the developing thought of his manhood has carried him outside the present creed limits of his childhood's church, he still cherishes the dream of a time to come when Christians will welcome to their fellowship those whom their fathers called Infidels, and when both will forget their different ways of defining the undefinable in a common purpose to work with nature in developing the highest perfection of every individual and securing the happiness of all.